

African Research Review

AN INTERNATIONAL MULTI-DISCIPLINARY JOURNAL,
BAHIR DAR, ETHIOPIA

AFRREV VOL. 11 (3), SERIAL NO. 47, JULY, 2017:197-207

ISSN 1994-9057 (Print)

ISSN 2070-0083 (Online)

DOI : <http://dx.doi.org/10.4314/afrev.v11i3.19>

Revamping Nigerian Economy through Cassava Production

Okosun, Victor Abhie, PhD, FCAI, FAWSCN

Department of General Studies

College of Education

Ekiadolor-Benin City

Edo State, Nigeria

Telephone: +2348094929950, +2348019193898

E-mail: vicbismack@yahoo.co.uk

.....
Aihie-Ezomo, Joy

Department of General Studies

College of Education

Ekiadolor-Benin City

Edo State, Nigeria

Abstract

The main kernel of this paper is on revamping Nigerian economy through cassava production. The title of the paper is quite appropriate because of the economic morass Nigeria is currently enveloped. This was as a result of the vagaries price of crude oil in the international market. The Nigerian economy have nosedived and accelerated downward a cliff. There by exacerbating the living condition of vast majority of Nigerians. This unsavoury situation can be arrested or simmered down through the massive production of cassava root crop in Nigeria. A well-articulated and dynamic cassava production policy cum programme of the federal government will help to move the nation out of her economic woods. This will be the orifice for revamping the prostrated economy of Nigeria. Consequently, the paper defined the concept of Nigerian economy. The paper is explicated with the aid of the system theory. The data/information upon which this paper was predicated was collected from secondary

sources. It engaged content or historical analysis as the instrument of analysis. The authors examined the interconnection between cassava production and revamping Nigerian economy. Recommendations were made aimed at synergizing cassava production in Nigeria. Epitomizing, the authors concluded that massive cassava production is a desideratum to revamping Nigerian economy.

Introduction

The centrality of the role of cassava production in revamping the marooned Nigeria economy has occupied the minds of sociologist, public administrators, political actors, agriculturalist etc. The aftermath of which has rejuvenated interest of academics have culminated in organizing conferences, workshops, seminars. This is so as to chart a roadmap for cassava production, as a leeway of moving Nigeria out of her economic doldrums (Okosun and Urhohide, 2014).

In the mid-1970s, when General Yakubu Gowon held way as head of state, Nigeria witnessed an unprecedented boom due to the rise in demand of crude oil in the international market. The consequence of the latter sentence was millions of petrol dollars accrued to the nation. “This led to a geometrical rise in government spending. There was massive importation of all sorts of goods from advanced nations such as Britain” (Iyoha, 1999). Rather than diversify the economy with the gained petrol dollars. Our leader fretted the money away. Agriculture was neglected. Thus, Nigeria became a mono culture economy. A development that shattered the Nigerian economy (Iyoha, 1999).

However, the monolithic Nigeria economy can be revamped through massive cassava production. A panoramic view of the nation geographical theatre will reveal that cassava is mainly grown in the south west, south-south states etc. Nigeria is currently the largest producers of cassava in the world with an annual output of 45 million tons of tuberous root (Adekaya, Agala & Ogunjimi, 2004). Cassava production in large scale will have a multiplier effect on Nigeria economy in many fronts. Nigeria will not only be guaranteed food security for her teeming population, but will also generate cash income for the largest number of household (Department of Agriculture, 2013). In addition, massive cassava production will be a good source of foreign exchange and employment for the Nigeria and Nigerians etc. In this breath, cassava production will galvanize and help to revamp Nigeria economy that is at the precipice of a cliff.

Conceptual Clarification

The concept of national economy has been addressed by different scholars. In other words, various scholars have defined the concept differently. Their definitions of national economy depend on their perception of the concept.

According to Encyclopedia Britannica (2011), “the concept national economy refers to economy of an entire nation. The national economy includes financial resources and management. It encompasses the value of all goods within a nation”. This definition is lucid and captures the main rhythm of the paper. Furthermore, the definition contains all element and fundamental activities of citizens in a nation, such as the manufacturing sector, agricultural sector, mining sector etc. Although, the definition did not specifically mention the activities of citizens in a nation, it is implied and subsumed since the definition pinpointed financial resources and management. These two

concepts are indicators of men and women activity. The aggregate of all production activities that has taken place in a nation must be taking into due cognizance when discussing national economy. If a nation is dependent mainly on one product, without diversifying the economy, which is often due to problems of disarticulation and dislocation in the economy (Ake, 2001), such economy can be termed a mono-economy. A classic example is Nigeria and some other countries in Sub-Saharan Africa.

Theoretical Framework: Open System Theory

Theories are quite fundamental in discussing issues pertaining to development of a given nation. The authors explicated the paper in all ramifications with the aid of the open system theory. The system theory is crucial in analyzing the economies of nations in sub-Saharan Africa, such as Nigeria. The systems theory was popularized by an America scholar David Easton (1956) in his famous article title “An approach to the analysis of political system”. The system theory presupposes that political system, economic system, etc. of a nation as a whole is influenced by a number of interactions within the subsystems, and interactions with the environment or outside its environment. Each of the subsystems performing an indefinable task (Ancoff, 1970).

The open system theory harps on the fact that, a nation or organization can achieve its goal and objectives through a relationship between the internal components parts and the external environment (Jerome and Lawrence, 1979). Below is the diagram of the open system theory.

Applying the Open System Theory to the paper, the political actors, bureaucrats at the Federal Ministries of Agriculture, Federal Ministries of Economic Planning, etc. must fashioned out policy and programmes targeted at increasing cassava production in Nigeria. This policy must percolate to the various interventionist agencies. They must ensure that, enunciated cassava production policy framework is implemented to the latter. The interactions between officials of central government, states government, interventionist agencies and the various communities in Nigeria is a prerequisite for the efficient and effective delivery of a sound cassava policy in Nigeria (Okosun and Aihie Ezomo, 2014).

Furthermore, the interactions between the subsystems and the environment help to ensure that demands and inputs of the citizens of Nigeria are transformed or processed by the various tiers of government, and interventionist agencies etc into outputs. These outputs are increased cassava production, higher cash income earning from cassava sales by rural farmers, higher foreign exchange earnings and self-sufficiency in food production etc (Nweke et al, 2014).

The Interconnect Between Cassava Production and Revamping Nigerian Economy

In development studies parlance, scholars have posited that, there is interconnect or nexus between revamping a nation economy and the production of crops, such scholars include Sung Ban, Pal Young and Dwight Perkins (1980). The latter sentence is applicable to Nigeria. There are heuristic merits to be obtained in the massive cultivation of cassava crop. This is because cassava production resonates and towers highest among food cash crops percentage distribution of income of farmers. It is

worthy to note that, cassava contributes N329 and 21%, while yam is 269.23, sweet potato 95 and 1%, plantain N176.26%, maize N315.19%, while rice is N24.14%, others is -34%, from the table, one can safely deduce that if cassava production policy is properly harnessed by the different tiers of government. The crop will greatly contribute towards revamping Nigerian economy (See table 2 below).

Table 2: Percentage distribution of food cash income or household producing crops

| Food Crops | Cassava | | Yam | | Sweet Potato | | Plantain | | Maize | | Rice | |
|--------------|-------------|---|-------------|---|--------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|-------------|---|
| | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % | N | % |
| Cassava | 329.21 | | 269.23 | | 90.14 | | 176.26 | | 315.19 | | 124.14 | |
| Yam | 261.21 | | 276.18 | | 75.14 | | 168.16 | | 266.13 | | 93.73 | |
| Sweet Potato | 90.1 | | 75.1 | | 95.1 | | 43.1 | | 94.0 | | 59.0 | |
| Plantain | 176.1 | | 43.2 | | 43.1 | | 181.3 | | 175.1 | | 47.0 | |
| Maize | 415.14 | | 94.13 | | 94.8 | | 175.15 | | 343.13 | | 143.24 | |
| Rice | 124.12 | | 159.12 | | 59.10 | | 47.9 | | 139-15 | | 143.24 | |
| Others | -34 | | -31 | | -52 | | -30 | | -39 | | -38 | |
| Total | -100 | | -100 | | -100 | | -100 | | -100 | | -100 | |

Source: Department of Agriculture (2000), Cassava Development in Nigeria: A Country Case Study Towards a Global Strategy for Cassava Development. Retrieved from www.foa.org/docrep/009/eo/54e/A015E05.hlm 2 April 28.2017

When cassava production policy is properly articulated by the central and states government. It will improve the rural farmer's income. Some of the money can be saved and invested in petty trading, setting up of cassava and rice mills etc. This carried out to its ramifications will help to alleviate poverty prevalent among the rural inhabitants (Esu-Amba, 2013).

Furthermore, cassava production in the nation will add momentum to generating mass employment for the teeming millions of unemployed Nigerians in the urban and rural sector of Nigerian economy. The unemployment rate in the country has risen to an astronomical figure of over 20.3% (Office of Statistics, 2013). To reverse the unemployment problem bedeviling the nation, cassava industry provides the solution by giving employment to Nigerians. This is akin to Thailand experience. Through research and development of rice production, she has made history as one of the world lowest rate of unemployment country in the World (Business day, 2012).

Furthermore, a properly harnessed cassava production in the nation will galvanize, synergize and revamp the nation ailing economy. This will be achieved through the processing of the harvested cassava crop into different products. Some of the by products, such as starch, etc. are exported to advanced countries e.g. China, Germany, etc. Thus, cassava will be a good source of revenue (foreign exchange) for the government of Nigeria. This will help to boost our external reserve. Also, the central government will channel the hard-earned foreign currency towards the diversification of the Nigerian economy. The Asian Tiger nations e.g. Malaysia has utilized the cultivation of palm oil to its highest comparative advantage. Malaysia now controls almost 40% of the World's palm produce value at 18 billion US dollars (Business day, 2012).

Similarly, cassava production in the country will lead to self-sufficiency in food production. Anyiwe (2008) posited that “a nation that cannot feed itself stand the risk of losing its sovereignty”. This latter statement can be reversed through cassava industry. The Nigerian population will have cassava products to feed themselves. This will reduce drastically food importation by both the citizens and government of the nation

A potent nexus relating to the latter paragraph is that, cassava production/industry will stimulate industrial growth in Nigeria. This shall be achieved through establishment of agro allied industries in various parts of the federation. These agro allied industries shall utilize harvested cassava as it raw material. In the same vein, the established agro allied industries shall engage in the actions of social responsibilities towards its host communities. This is through the provision of infrastructures such as roads, maternities etc. Thus, cassava production in Nigeria will have a multiplier effect on the nation’s economy (Okosun and Aihie Ezomo, 2014).

Action Oriented Process of Cassava Production in Nigeria

For the federal government of Nigeria to revamp the prostrated national economy. She must embrace and adopt an action oriented process in cassava production in the country. Action oriented process was a tool originally devised by Apel, and Cammozzs in his book Action Oriented Process of Indigenous Participatory Network (2000). The authors of this paper adopted and modified it to suit the paper.

Action oriented process of cassava production in Nigeria entails the central government taking a comprehensive look at the following;

- 1) Cassava production in the nation.
- 2) The role of the cultivation of the crop in revamping nation economy.
- 3) The role of interventionist agencies, such as the research institutions, Seed Acceleration agency etc.
- 4) Identifying various strategies targeted at synergizing the production of the crop.
- 5) The central government must implement the identified strategies. There must be a feedback mechanism to evaluate the policy and programme on cassava production (Egonwan, 2000). One fundamental aspect of the action oriented process in cassava production is that, government officials must be actively involved in guiding the process. There must be institutional linkage, both vertically and horizontally from the Federal Ministry of Agriculture, Chain of command to coordinate the activities of state, extension workers and interventionist agencies etc. (Sung, Pal and Perkins, 1980).

Strategies for Revamping the Nigeria Economy through Cassava Production

- 1) Providing adequate legal framework by the central government. A legal framework “is the rules and regulation, the process through which government operate and the institutions that apply them” (World Bank 1995). This is lacking in Nigeria. A sound legal framework is sin qua non to cassava production in Nigeria. The set of rules for cassava production must be clearly spelt out to various stakeholders engaged in cassava production in Nigeria. This is vital particularly

when it comes to federal government and state government acquisition of land for cassava production. The local communities' inhabitant must be informed of the compensation to be paid. This information must be disseminated through their local chiefs, Ministry of Information etc.

- 2) The federal, states government involvement of the rural populace in cassava production. This shall be achieved through participatory approach. The non-involvement of the rural populace in developmental needs, such as cassava production tend to stifle development of projects in the rural sector (Okosun and Urhoghide, 2012).
- 3) The central government must declare state emergency in cassava production in Nigeria. This can be achieved through the initiation of well-articulated macroeconomic policy that is targeted at enhancing sustainable cassava production (Nweke et al)
- 4) The federal government initiation of cassava production policy that must include the women folk. This is a desideratum if Nigeria is to witness massive cassava production. Kuye (2004) posited that the role of women cannot be underestimated. They constitute 70% of the agricultural farm labourers in Nigeria. The women folk must be fully integrated into cassava policy and programme.
- 5) Rejuvenation of the seed multiplication programme in the nation. This shall include the production of high yielding, disease resistance cassava seedling stems/seedling. The seedling shall be given to farmers at subsidized rate.
- 6) The nation land tenure system need to be reformed by the federal government. The current fragmentation of farmlands or the consolidation of very large small holding into large ones poses a problem to agricultural production (Okeke & Onokhoraye, 1994).
- 7) The federal and states government must pursue an aggressive infrastructural policy in the country. This will lead to the provision of all categories of infrastructure in the nook and crannies of Nigeria, example is construction of cassava storage facilities (silos), culverts, dykes, dams etc.
- 8) Adequate market for cassava

For the federal government to revamp the economy through cassava production, she must provide adequate market for the commodity. This can be achieved via the establishment of Marketing Board for cassava. The board shall purchase the processed cassava products from the farmers. The company shall arrange for its shipping and the sales of the commodity (Ake, 1981). The foreign exchange/in millions of dollars/pounds to be realized will be ploughed to the diversification/revamping of the economy. Also, the farmers will be assured of readily market for cassava.

- 9) The federal government provision of adequate credit facilities to both small scale farmers and companies that are engaged in cassava production. The Agricultural Development Bank etc. must be directed to give loans to small scale farmers without collateral security. The companies should be give loans with a period of moratorium. In this vein, accessibility of credit facilities to farmers will be achieved.

- 10) Agricultural extension services must be reinvigorated. This is through training and retraining of extension workers engaged in cassava production programmes in Nigeria. The extension workers must give the latest techniques and information to farmers. This will synergize cassava production in the country.
- 11) Corruption which is endemic in federal civil service, public service and private sector must be curtailed. This can be achieved through strengthening of antigraft institutions by continuously purging officials who are corrupt (Okokhere, 2015).

Conclusion

The article dwelt extensively on revamping the Nigerian economy through cassava production. It explored and discussed the issues that are involved in foisting a prostrated economy on Nigerian. The authors of this paper posited that, the current economy morass which Nigeria is marooned can be reversed through massive cassava production in Nigeria. This will be the pedestal for revamping the nation's economy.

Recommendations

The Nigerian state need an overhaul of the institutions that are fundamental to cassava production. The Nigerian effort need to reflect and reengineer a powerful commitment towards rethinking how massive cassava production can galvanize and revamp Nigerian economy. As fundamental step towards reinvigorating sound cassava production policy for the country.

- 1) The nation policy makers, bureaucrats, etc. must sit down and generate policy and programme that will enhance the production of cassava.
- 2) There must be institutionalized linkages between the central and states government, interventionist agencies, financial institutions, local farmers and agro allied industries.

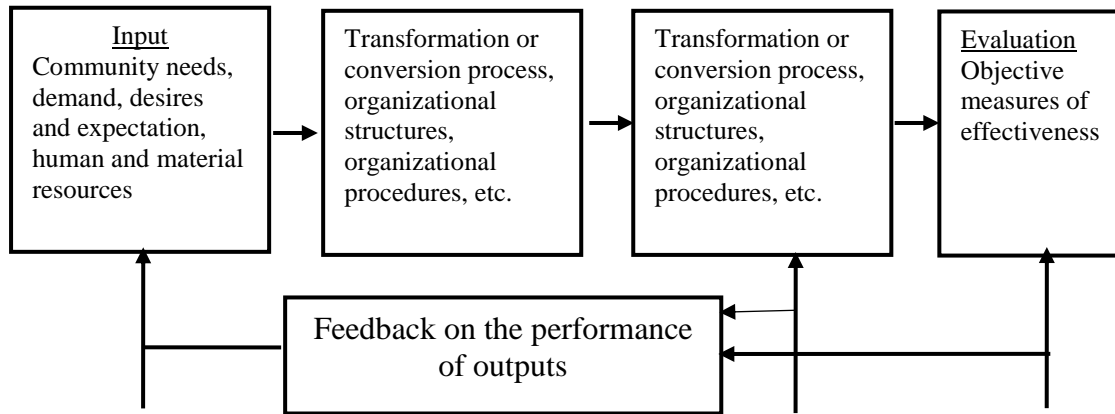
References

- Adamu, S. O. (2012). *Trends and prospect for cassava production in Nigeria*. Retrieved from <http://www.ifpvi.org/sites/defaultfiles/publication> on 29th May, 2017.
- Adekanye, T. A., Ogunjimi, L. & Ajala, S. I. (2013). An assessment of Cassava processing plants in Irepodun local government area, Kwara State, Nigeria. *World Journal of Agriculture Research*. Retrieved from <http://pubs.scicpub.com> on 27th May 2017.
- Ake, C. (1981). *A political economy of Africa*. New York: Longman Inc., pp.64-66.
- Ake, C. (1976). Explanatory notes on the political economy of Africa. *Journal of Modern African Studies*, 14.1 pp.20-25
- Aihie-Ezomo & Okosun, V. A. (2014). Enhancing the production of Cassava in rural sector of Nigeria economy through Integrated Rural Development. *International Journal of Science and Technology (STECH) Vol. 3 (3) September*, pp.70-74.
- Ancoff, R. (1972). A note on system science. *Interfaces*, pp15-20.

- Anyiwe, M. A. (2008). Agriculture, food security and rural development in Nigeria 1966-2005. In Aghayere, V. O., Iyoha, F. E., Idahosa, S. A., Herbert, W. E. (Eds.). *Nigeria political economy and sustainable development: Looking ahead*. Benin City, Faculty of Social and Management, Benson Idahosa University, and Centre for Development Integration in Africa (CDIA) Press, pp.36-45. Business Day (2012). Thursday May 14, 2012
- David, E. (1957). An approach to the analysis of political system. *World Politics*, Vol.9. pp. 380-4-401
- Delang, C. O., & Yu, Y. H. (2015). *Measuring welfare beyond economics. The genuine progress of Hong Kong and Singapore*. Retrieved from <http://www.rourdge.com/books/details197504/5513839> on April 30, 2017. Pp. 220-225.
- Department of Agriculture (2001). *Cassava development in Nigeria: A country case study towards a global strategy for Cassava development*. Retrieved from www.foa.org/doc.rep1009/e0154e/A015E05 on May 1st, 2017, pp.1-5
- Egonwan, J. A. (2000). *Public policy analysis concept and application*. Benin City: Perfect Business Publisher. Pp.10-40
- Encyclopedia Britannica (2000). *What is national economy?* Retrieved from <https://www.reference.com/worldnew/national-economy> on April 28, 2017. Pp.1-2
- Esu-Amba Ankakikam, A. (2013). Food security and employment generation in Africa: A case study of harnessing the Cassava Industry in Nigeria. *Books of Abstract and Proceedings for the 7th International Conference on Social Inequalities, Corruption and Development in "Africa, Science Technology and Development in Africa and Research, Education and Development in Africa"*, Vol.7. No.5, pp.177-178.
- Hoffren, J. (2001). *Measuring the ecfo-efficiency of welfare generation in a National economy: The case of Finland*. Retrieved on May 1st, 2017 from <http://measuring%20the20th://actcs.filpdf951-44-5252>
- Ishak, J. (2002). *The earth for all humanity managing economic inequality in the era of globalization*. Kebangsaan, Malaysia: Penerbit University Press, pp.17-24.
- Iyoha, F. E. C. (1987). Strategies for rural development in the era of economics turbulence. *Journal of Rural Development Administration*, Vol. xiv, No.1, pp.14-35.
- Iyoha, F. E. C. (1999). *Local government and rural development: A bottom up perspectives*. Benin City: Slyva Publication, pp.1-60
- Jerome, E. M. & Lawrence, C. H. (1979). *Public administration: Balancing power and accountability*. Illinois, USA: Moore Publishing Company, pp.126-128.
- Kuye, O. O. (2014). Determinants of effective participation of women in agricultural and rural development in Cross River State. *International Journal of Food and Agricultural Research*, Vol.1, No.1, and 2 December, pp.4-30.

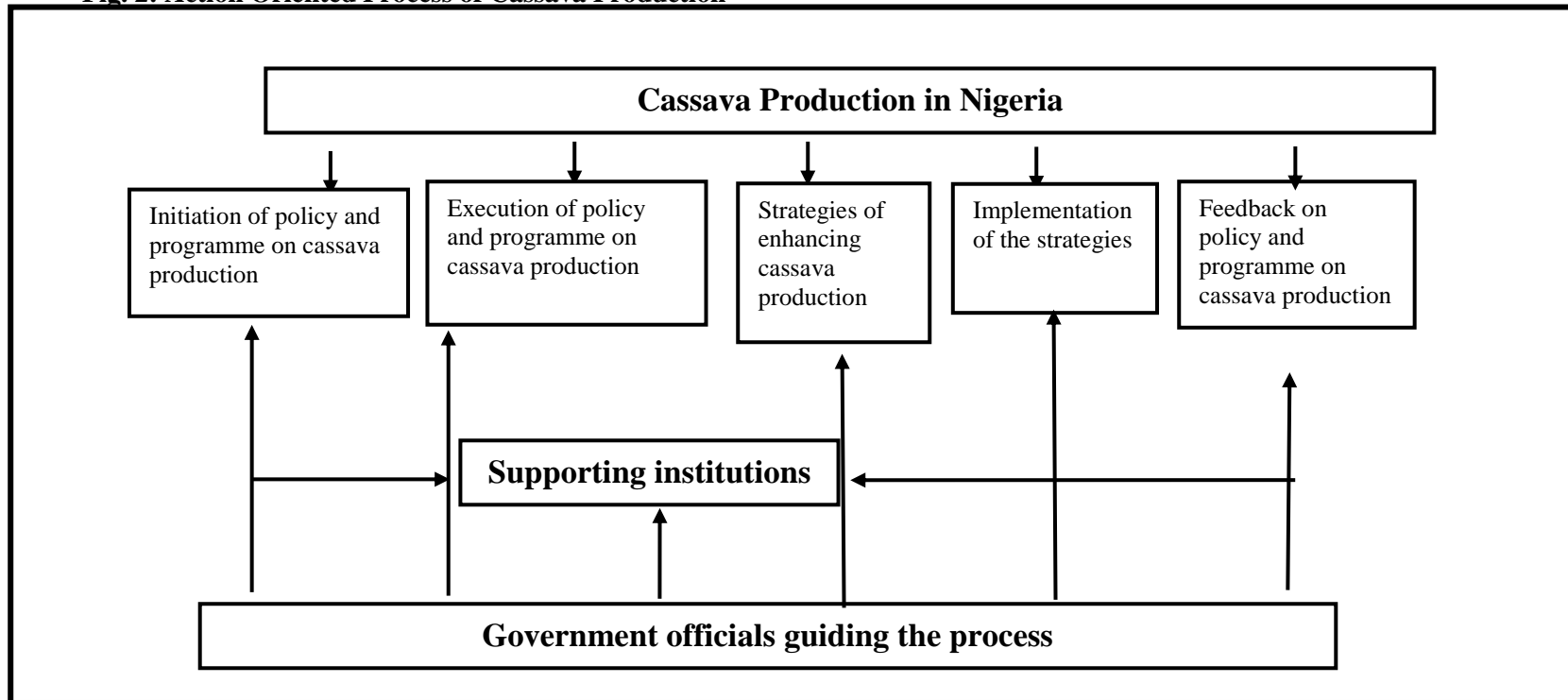
- Mballu, F. O. & Okeke, F. C. (2006). Repositioning education for poverty reduction. A proposal for rural environment development in Nigeria. *Multidisciplinary Journal of Research Development*. Vol. 7, No.4. Pp.1-20.
- Okafor, E. C. & Onokerhoraye, O. (1994). *Rural development and planning for Africa*. Benin City: University of Benin Press. Pp.10-35.
- Okokhere, F. (2015). Corruption in Nigeria: Forbidden act, national treasure. *International Journal of Governance and Development*, Volume 4, No.1, January, pp.70-74.
- Okosun, V. A. & Urhoghide, P. I. (2013). Reinvigorating River Basin Development Authorities (RBDA) for sustainable integrated rural development in Nigeria. *International Journal of Development Studies* Vol. 8. No. 7, December, pp.271-301.
- Okpare, A. O. & Ufuah, C. I. B. (2013). Science technology and development in Africa: A focus on the power energy sector of Nigeria's economy. *Book of Abstract and Proceedings for Development in Africa*. Vol.7. No5, pp.
- Omoare, A. M., Adekunle, A. A., Fakoya, E. O. & Oyedirun, W. O. (2013). Gender impact in Cassava production in ensuring household food security in Ogun State, Nigeria. *Book of abstract and proceedings for the 7th International Conference on Science, Technology and Development in Africa*. Vol.7, No 5, pp.248-249.
- Sung, H.B., Pal, Y. M. & Dwight, H. P. (1980). *Studies in the modernization of the Republic of Korea-1945-1975 rural development*. Massachusetts: Harvard University Press, pp.150-265.
- United States agency for international development (2012). *Growing Cassava in Nigeria*. Retrieved from www.usaid.gov on May 1st, 2017.
- Warren, M. E. (2006). Democracy and deceit. Regulating appearance of corruption. *American Journal of Political Science* 50, pp.158-171
- Wikipedia, the free Encyclopedia (2017). *Cassava production in Nigeria*. (2014, May 1st). Retrieved from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/cassavaprodcution in Nigeria](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/cassavaprodcution_in_Nigeria) May 1st, 2017.
- Wikipedia, the Free Encyclopedia (2017). Index of sustainable economic welfare. Retrieved from [http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/index of](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/index_of) on April 27th, 2017.
- World Bank (1993). *The East Asian miracle: Economic growth and economic policy*. Oxford: Oxford University Press, pp. 1-20
- World Bank (1995). *Development issues: Presentation to the 50th meeting of development communities*: Washington D. C. World Bank Press. Pp.10-30.

Fig 1: Open System



Source: Jerome, B. M and Lawrence, C. H (1979). *Public administration balancing power and accountability*. Illinois, Moory Publisher, p. 128

Fig. 2: Action Oriented Process of Cassava Production



Sources: Construction is adapted from Action Oriented Process of Indigenous Participatory Network. Apel, H. and Camozzi (1989). *Action Oriented Process of Indigenous Participatory Network* cited by Okeke, E. and Mbalisi, F. (2006); Repositioning Education for Poverty Reduction, Proposal for Rural Environment Development in Nigeria *Multidisciplinary Journal of Research and Development*, Vol.7, No 4., July